CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE
Issued by
Consumers' Counsel Division
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VOLUME VI, NUMBER 2 JANUARY 15, 1942

Food supplies in most lines during the winter and spring of 1942 will be larger than a year ago but probably will sell at somewhat higher prices. The harvest of 1941 crops affecting food supplies in 1942 generally are larger than a year ago and most recent years. Present prospects for fresh crops normally harvested during winter and spring look good and, barring freezes or other abnormal factors, supplies should show increases over last year. With more money to spend than in recent years, consumers are spending more either for greater quantities or at higher prices.

Oranges and grapefruit are in full season now and will continue so until spring, unless the crop is reduced by freezes. During these months oranges and grapefruit normally are cheapest for they are in greater supply than during late spring, summer, and early fall.

Oranges are more plentiful than last year and should continue so throughout the winter months unless unfavorable weather occurs in producing areas. Florida is now shipping the mid-season varieties with Florida Valencias expected in a month to six weeks. California ships Navel oranges from late November until late spring.

The grapefruit crop is not quite so heavy as last year and prices are higher. Quality is reported as good. Florida is shipping both the seeded and seedless varieties, as also is Texas; quite a large volume of "Pinks" are coming from Texas also. Tangerines are considerably higher priced than last year with a much shorter crop. Supplies of lemons for fresh shipment look about as good as last year.

For the first part of 1942, larger pork supplies than a year ago are expected. A record 1942 pig crop is anticipated. Government purchases of pork and lard under the Food-for-Defense program in 1942 will be equivalent to the products from about 12 million hogs, but supplies remaining for domestic consumption will not differ greatly from the current year. Slaughter supplies of pork during recent months have been smaller than a year earlier, but the 1941 spring pig crop, from which current marketings come, was slightly larger than a year earlier. Slaughter is increasing seasonally but the peak probably will be later than a year ago because farmers are feeding more and marketing at heavier weights. The full effects of the larger crop and heavier weights may not be reflected until late winter.

Beef supplies probably will be large compared with most recent years, except 1941. The number of high grade carcasses probably will be less than a year ago because fewer cattle were put on feed. This may mean a

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wider spread than a year earlier between the upper and lower grades of slaughter cattle. It may be an excellent opportunity to emphasize some of the less expensive, but equally nutritious, cuts which can be prepared well if given proper attention and time.

Egg production is increasing seasonally, the low point having been reached in November. Increasing supplies of fresh eggs are expected from now until spring with prices declining seasonally. The number of hens on farms is larger than last year and record egg production is expected. Purchases of eggs by Government for the Food-for-Defense Program may be heavy but supplies for domestic consumers about the same as last year may be anticipated.

Dried beans are in larger supply than last year. Even with substantial bean purchases by the Government, the supply remaining for domestic consumption is higher, at higher price levels, than has prevailed in recent years.

Rice is slightly lower in supply than in the last couple of years but as large as in previous recent years. The 1941 rice acreage planted and harvested was larger than any recent years. Anticipated production early in the fall also was large. However, a September hurricane in the southern rice belt, followed by abnormally wet weather, reduced harvest considerably so that current supplies are slightly less than last year, but apparently are adequate to meet normal requirements. The price advances of the past few months followed the downward adjustments in the estimated crop caused by the difficult harvest situation. Prices of long grain varieties have advanced more than short grains. The short grains constitute most of the domestic supply.

Fresh produce is now moving from southern and southwestern producing areas. General prospects are favorable for increasing shipments unless frosts cut the supply. Lima beans and snap beans of favorable quality are moving out of Florida in heavier supply than last year. New crop cabbage is coming from Florida, Texas, and California in considerably larger volume than last year. Spinach is much heavier than last year and, with favorable weather, is expected to continue. Supplies of fresh tomatoes are expected to continue light.

"BLUE STAMP FOODS"

The January Blue Stamp food list will be the same as the December list, except that raisins have been removed. The January list is:

APPLES, ORANGES, GRAPEFRUIT, PEARS
ALL FRESH VEGETABLES (including potatoes)
DRIED BEANS, DRIED PRUNES
ALL WHEAT FLOUR (including enriched), ALL SELF-RISING FLOUR (including enriched), WHOLE WHEAT (graham) FLOUR, CORNMEAL, HOMINY GRITS

(NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS: No Market Service issued for January 1, 1942.)

CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE
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Fresh vegetables are now coming from the far South, Southwest, and California. Relatively large supplies for this period of the year are in prospect. During the first part of January cold weather retarded shipments and growth to some extent, but for most vegetable crops movement has been larger than a year ago. In most lines the estimated production is larger than last year. The frost season is not over as yet, so prospects may be altered appreciably if damaging freezes occur.

Cabbage, both storage and fresh, is available in larger quantities than last year. Fresh shipments are increasing, with further increases expected. Indicated production in the early States (Ariz., Calif., Fla., and Tex.) is more than 50 percent larger than last year. The quality of current marketings is reported as fair to good.

Fresh celery from Florida is expected to increase rapidly during early February. Shipments from some of the important producing areas in California are declining. Total shipments have been heavier during recent weeks than a year earlier and are expected to continue so.

Carrots have been moving in larger quantities than last year. The early crop is estimated as about the same as a year ago. Peak shipments from California may be expected by the latter part of the month. The movement from Texas has been light, but is expected to increase when weather permits.

Supplies of potatoes are less than last year. January 1 stocks of storage potatoes are about 7 percent smaller than a year earlier but slightly above the 10-year (1931-40) average. Practically all the potatoes now available to consumers come from storage supplies. They will continue to be an important factor in determining potato prices until late spring or early summer. Some new potatoes are being shipped from Florida where, although acreage is somewhat less than last year, production is slightly larger. Planting reports on winter and early potatoes -- marketed from now until late spring -- show a smaller acreage than last year. New potatoes will not be coming in any sizable quantities until about April.

Snap beans, peppers, eggplant, and cucumbers were hurt drastically by heavy rains in Florida during mid-January. Lima beans were damaged only slightly. An increase in shipments of lima beans is expected during the first part of February, as also, of beets from Texas.

Lettuce prospects during the next month look favorable, with shipments increasing seasonally from a somewhat larger crop than a year ago. Quality is reported as good in California and Arizona. Rains have adversely affected to some extent the quality of the Florida crop.

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Onion supplies are short, January 1 stocks being 24 percent less than a year ago and the lowest since 1935. In the eastern and central States stocks are shorter than in the western States. Consumers are dependent on storage onions for their supplies until the latter part of April or early May, when the new crop begins to move from Texas. Intended acreage reports for new crop onions show plantings almost twice as large as last year. However, Texas acreage last year was very low. Louisiana and California also show larger acreage, although they are not so important as Texas in the production of early onions.

The crop of winter oranges is the largest on record. February is about the mid-month in the orange season and heavy supplies may be expected. Early and mid-season oranges from Florida are about through shipping but Florida Valencias will begin soon, so that there will be no interruption in the supply of Florida fruit. California Navel oranges continue to go to market in large volume. They will constitute the California supply until late spring when California Valencias take over. Orange prices have been somewhat higher than a year ago, although the spread has been narrowing in recent weeks.

Grapefruit is in the height of its season. Shipments both from Texas and Florida have been relatively large, with prices in recent weeks only slightly higher than last year. Quality is good. Heavy shipments are expected to continue until early spring.

Egg production normally increases at this time of the year. The usual seasonal decline in price has not taken place thus far. With a larger number of layers on the farms, egg production will be heavier in February this year than last year's large production. However, purchases for military and Lend-Lease use have been heavy. The supply of eggs available for civilian use during late winter is expected to be approximately the same as a year ago.

The supply of fryers and broilers is large for this period of the year. This is the result of comparatively heavy marketings of fresh-killed poultry as well as large storage stocks. Fryers now are the best buy in poultry.

Butter production is expected to be somewhat smaller than the corresponding month last year, but stocks in storage are materially larger. Butter prices are slightly higher than a year earlier, and, if they follow a normal seasonal trend, may be expected to continue so during the early part of the year but they probably will be lower during the second part of the year.

"BLUE STAMP FOODS"

The February Blue Stamp food list is the same as the January list. The February list is:

APPLES, ORANGES, GRAPEFRUIT, PEARS
ALL FRESH VEGETABLES (including potatoes)
DRIED BEANS, DRIED PRUNES
ALL WHEAT FLOUR (including enriched), ALL SELF-RISING FLOUR (including enriched), WHOLE WHEAT (Graham) FLOUR, CORNMEAL, HOMINY GRITS

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VOLUME VI, NUMBER 4 FEBRUARY 23, 1942

Vegetables: Compared with a year ago, larger supplies are expected in the next few weeks of snap beans, green peas, tomatoes, celery, cauliflower--and much larger for cabbage, lettuce, and spinach. Smaller supplies are anticipated in green peppers, carrots, eggplant, onions. Recent vegetable prices have been higher generally than a year ago, except for cabbage and spinach, which averaged lower.

California asparagus shipments should be coming on the market by the latter part of the month. Artichokes are expected in increasing quantities from a rather large crop. Current onion supplies are limited to storage stocks, which are considerably smaller than last year and selling at higher prices. New crop Texas onions will not be on the market for a couple of months. Present prospects on the new crop indicate much larger production than a year ago.

Fresh fruits are limited at this period of the year largely to citrus, apples, and winter pears. The next couple of months normally mark the height of the season for fresh oranges and grapefruit. Quality is reported as generally good, with larger supplies of oranges than a year ago, and about the same supplies of grapefruit. Orange prices have been below those of last year, and grapefruit prices have been above in the last few weeks. Apple supplies are smaller than last year, particularly in some varieties, although stocks of Western Delicious are relatively heavy. Winter pear stocks are more plentiful this year than last. Prospects for winter strawberries indicate a larger crop than last year. During the remainder of the month, supplies will be limited mostly to Florida.

Meat supplies, as a whole, are larger than a year ago, but prices are higher. Slaughter of pork, beef, and lambs was considerably larger during January than in the same month of 1941. Although pork slaughter has been higher than last year, it has begun to decline seasonally and is expected to continue downward until fall pigs come on the market, during the late spring and summer. Price of chickens is in a good competitive situation with pork. At present, broilers (up to 3 pounds live weight) are an excellent buy for people who can afford chicken. Poultry supplies are somewhat larger than last year. The increase is chiefly in broilers. Beef supplies are expected to continue larger than last year with some seasonal decrease in slaughter during the next few months.

Egg supplies for domestic consumers are estimated as about the same as a year earlier. Production is larger than last year. Lend-Lease purchases are taking most of the added production. Egg prices usually decline seasonally until late spring. The decline to date has been less than usual. Cold weather in January reduced supplies temporarily.

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Current production of milk and of most dairy products is larger than a year ago. Butter stocks are large, and expected to continue so. Current production of butter is running smaller than last year, but stocks are sufficiently large to maintain comparable supplies. Lend-Lease purchases are absorbing much of the increased production of cheese, evaporated milk, and dry skim milk. Recent prices, reflecting increased buying power and Lend-Lease operations, are higher than last year.

Cooking fats and oils come from various sources, such as lard, tallow, cottonseed, soybeans, peanuts, corn, coconuts, palm kernel, and minor amounts from other products. Total supplies of these fats and oils are somewhat shorter than a year ago, although some are in greater quantity. Production of domestic fats and oils (lard, tallow, soybean, corn) has been running higher than a year earlier. Coconut and palm kernel are imported, largely from the Pacific area. Shipping difficulties and the war have cut off most of the imports. Foods would not be affected as much by lack of these imports as other commodities using fats and oils, were it not that some fats and oils ordinarily used for foods may be routed to other uses. Recent domestic consumption of fats and oils has been larger than a year earlier. Also some lard is being sent to our allies under the Lend-Lease program.

To offset the decline in imports and greater consumption, a program has been announced which proposes to increase domestic production of butter 3 percent, lard 41 percent, soybean oil 104 percent, peanut oil 900 percent, corn oil 10 percent, tallow 14 percent, and oleo oil and oleostearin 16 percent over last year.

Sugar rationing, announced early in February, is expected to get under way by the middle of March. No change has been indicated in the limit of 12 ounces per person per week originally suggested as the top amount to be permitted. As to other sweetenings, corn sirup is in more plentiful supply than a year ago. It may be used for some cooking needs. Molasses probably will be in shorter supply. Supplies of maple sirup and maple sugar are slightly less than last year, and honey and sorghum sirup are about the same. Chief alternative to cane and beet sugar is corn sirup.

CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE
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March 2, 1942

Vegetables: Sources of fresh vegetable supplies at this season are limited mostly to the deep South, the Southwest, and the Pacific Coast, but production from slightly later areas will soon be ready for marketing. Some root crops, such as carrots, rutabagas, potatoes, and sweetpotatoes are still coming to market from storage.

Prospects for the next month, compared with a year earlier, indicate heavier supplies of cabbage, spinach, lettuce, celery, shallots and green peas. Supplies of the following will be about the same: carrots and asparagus. Smaller supplies are expected in snap beans, green peppers, onions, and potatoes.

Cabbage and spinach supplies are much heavier than last year: recent prices of cabbage have been a bit lower than last year, but spinach prices have been higher. Both old and new crop cabbage are available with new crop cabbage becoming more important. Florida celery shipments are expected to hit their peak early this month with continued heavy movement until May or early June. California asparagus is now moving, with appreciable volume expected by the middle of the month. Light shipments of Georgia asparagus are expected to start shortly, with volume increasing the latter part of March.

Storage supplies of old crop potatoes, which provide most of current marketings, are less plentiful than last year, also higher priced. New crop potatoes are now moving to market in slightly larger quantities than a year earlier. However, old potatoes will continue to supply most of the market until late spring. Onion supplies are much shorter than last year and prices are higher. Prospects for new crop onions from Texas look favorable but they are not expected on the market until early May. Shallots are expected to be in larger supply than a year ago. Lettuce prospects for the coming month are favorable compared with last year.

Fresh fruit supplies are limited mostly to oranges, grapefruit, lemons, apples, winter pears and fresh strawberries. Apples are in shorter supply than a year ago, except for the Delicious varieties which are heavier. Winter pears of good quality are available in larger supply than last year. Fresh strawberries were adversely affected by recent frosts in Florida which probably will curtail shipments during most of the month.

Canned fruits and vegetables: wholesale price ceilings were put into effect for most canned fruits and vegetables by the Office of Price Administration on February 28, 1942. The ceilings are set at the prices which

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prevailed during the week of February 23-27, 1942. Last year's pack of California fruits was the largest on record, except for 1937. However, California fruit shipments from June 1, 1941 to January 1, 1942 were the largest on record, so that January 1, 1942 stocks were smaller by 9 percent than a year earlier. Stocks of California apricots, fruit cocktail and freestone peaches were larger than a year earlier. Lower stocks were reported for cherries, fruit salad, pears, and clingstone peaches. It is too early to forecast canned fruit prospects for 1942. The 1941 pack of canned vegetables was the largest on record. Trade reports also indicate heavy shipments of canned vegetables and lower January 1, 1942 stocks for most items than a year earlier. The Department of Agriculture has called for a record pack of canned vegetables in 1942. Big increases have been asked for in tomatoes and canned peas. Slight increases over last year are anticipated in asparagus and lima beans. A slight decrease is expected in snap beans. Corn is expected to be about the same. Some items, such as sauerkraut, mixed vegetables, succotash, and spinach will be affected considerably by restricted allocations of tin for cans.

Supplies of dried beans are larger than a year ago. Recent prices in some varieties, such as dried red kidneys, pea beans, and baby limas have declined from January levels. Dried beans are an excellent source of vegetable proteins and provide a partial substitute for meat proteins.

Egg production usually increases rapidly in March and continues upward until late April. Seasonal increases have already begun with more expected. The number of eggs produced during the next month is expected to be larger than last year. However, egg drying operations for military and lend-lease purposes are taking large quantities which leaves about the same fresh supply as a year ago for consumers. An effort is being made by the Government to maintain egg prices at such levels as will help to insure sufficient supplies to take care of military needs and usual home consumption.

Poultry is in heavier supply than a year ago. Broilers are coming to market in record numbers for this time of the year. Broiler prices have not gone up as much as have the price of hens, nor as much as the price of other classes of chickens.

"BLUE STAMP FOODS"

The March Blue Stamp food list is the same as the February list, except that pork has been taken off. The March list is:

APPLES, ORANGES, GRAPEFRUIT, PEARS;
ALL FRESH VEGETABLES (including potatoes);
DRIED BEANS, DRIED PRUNES;
BUTTER, SHELL EGGS;
ALL WHEAT FLOUR (including enriched), ALL
SELF-RISING FLOUR (including enriched), WHOLE
WHEAT (Graham) FLOUR, CORNMEAL, HOMINY GRITS.

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Maximum prices have been established at the wholesale level for major pork products by the Office of Price Administration. Price ceilings were set for all major pork products at the highest prices received by wholesalers during the five days, March 3-7, 1942. Price ceilings are to become effective March 23, 1942 for a 60-day period. The order applies to major pork products which include the following: Fresh, cured, and frozen hams, shoulders, picnics, butts, loins, bacon, bellies, fatbacks, spareribs, and canned or packaged luncheon meats made entirely of pork. Pork has been dropped from the Food Stamp list.

Marketings of pork from last fall's pig crop have begun in a small way and will increase during the next few months. Slaughter this summer is expected to be larger than it was a year ago. Since last spring total supplies of beef have been running larger than a year earlier and are expected to continue large during 1942. But supplies of the better grades probably will not be as plentiful this spring and summer as they were in 1941. Fed lamb supplies are expected to continue a little larger than a year earlier through April, but the supply of spring lamb this spring and early summer probably will be somewhat smaller than for the comparable period last year.

Supplies of fresh vegetables are increasing seasonally, although they are still limited mostly to southern and western sources. Larger supplies than a year ago are indicated for: Asparagus, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, tomatoes, lettuce, and spinach. Smaller supplies than last year are expected in onions, cucumbers, eggplant and green peppers.

Fresh cabbage supplies are much greater than a year ago, with production of early cabbage estimated at 91 percent larger than last year. Shipments have been heavy; quality is good. Prices have been lower than a year ago and considerably lower than the first part of the year. Celery shipments from Florida are increasing and will continue at a relatively high level for another month or so. Total celery production available for market during the coming month is larger than last year. Cauliflower is now being shipped in larger quantities than last year; quality is good. Asparagus has been a bit slower in starting than was anticipated earlier. Shipments are now coming from California, with Georgia and South Carolina shipments expected to begin during the latter part of this month. Estimated supplies are about the same as last year, with a somewhat larger crop in the South and a slightly smaller crop in California. Lettuce is now coming from the Southwest, also from Florida and Georgia.

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Lettuce supplies during the forthcoming month are expected to be slightly larger than they were a year ago. Rhubarb is now in season in many areas. Tomato supplies are expected to be larger than last year's relatively small crop.

Strawberry supplies will increase seasonally from now until late spring. Reports indicate that the crop is progressing satisfactorily with supplies for the next few weeks somewhat smaller than last year, but larger supplies later. New potatoes are beginning to come on the market in early season volume, which is somewhat larger than a year ago. Production of early carrots is indicated to be about the same as last year. Recent prices have been considerably higher than a year ago. Larger supplies of spinach than a year ago are expected from early producing areas. Spinach production is now beginning to move northward with the advance of spring. Recent prices have been somewhat higher than they were a year earlier.

Supplies of dry edible beans are large. Prices have been considerably higher than a year ago, although some varieties have declined recently. Dry red kidneys, pea beans, and baby limas have shown a downward trend since earlier in the year. Dry beans are an excellent source of protein and may be considered as a partial substitute for meats.

Egg production is considerably higher than a year ago. Lend-Lease requirements are taking most of the increased production for drying purposes, but supplies available to consumers are about the same as a year earlier. Egg production is increasing seasonally and supplies will be more plentiful during the next month than they were during the winter season. During the first week of March, the Department of Agriculture was in the New York market purchasing top quality eggs at 30 cents a dozen. At this time last year, the same quality eggs sold at wholesale on the New York market at 19½ to 20 cents.

Poultry supplies are larger than last year, with a sizeable increase in young chickens, particularly broilers and fryers. Fowls and broilers both are higher priced than they were at this time last year, with a larger increase shown for fowls than broilers.

Butter stocks are almost 4 times as large as they were a year ago. Recent prices have continued at steady levels. Milk production is larger than it was last year; military and Lend-Lease requirements for evaporated and dried milk and cheese are taking a good portion of the increase. Relatively high production of dairy products is expected to continue.

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Fresh vegetables during the first half of April will be more plentiful than they were during the previous two weeks, although the increase will not be as large as anticipated earlier. Wet, cold weather during early March delayed growth in a number of items. Most significant reductions are in lima beans, snap beans, cucumbers, green peas, green peppers, and tomatoes. Increases are expected in asparagus, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, new potatoes, and spinach.

The asparagus season gets into full swing in April. Shipments so far this spring have been comparatively light because of cold, wet weather. The California crop is reported as slightly smaller than last year. How much of the crop will be shipped fresh cannot be accurately determined at this time, for normally part of it is canned. However, it seems probable that the amount marketed in fresh form will be as large as last year. Other areas which market between late March and early May have a somewhat larger crop than last year. Fresh asparagus is marketed from March throughout July, with heaviest shipments usually occurring in April, May and June.

Cabbage shipments have been very heavy and are expected to continue so. The crop is much larger than last year; quality is good. Cabbage prices have been lower than last year.

Spinach prospects for early April look good. Shipments from some of the early crop areas will be coming to market then. Reports from producing areas indicate large shipments may be expected.

Lettuce supplies during the next few weeks are expected to be larger than last year. The southwestern states are still shipping heavy supplies and probably will continue to do so; shipments also are coming from the southern states. Some "Big Boston" lettuce is being shipped from Florida. Lettuce from the Carolinas may be expected during early April.

Some early onions may be expected during the first two weeks of April, but large volume movement from the new crop is not expected until after the middle of the month. New crop onions continue to become more important throughout April and by May constitute almost the entire supply. Shallots are moving in heavy volume and are expected to continue so during early April, but the crop will be fairly well out by the first of May.

Fresh tomatoes have been delayed somewhat by adverse weather conditions; seasonal increases are expected during early April but not as large as

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was anticipated earlier. Larger supplies than a year ago are expected during the latter part of the month.

Strawberry prospects for early April have been affected by cool, wet weather. Somewhat larger supplies than last year may be expected. Seasonal increases are expected during April with Louisiana shipments beginning around the first, and reaching their peak by the latter part of the month. Arkansas shipments should begin about the middle of the month.

Celery has been moving in large volume and is expected to continue throughout April. Quality is reported as good.

Carrots are expected to be in about the same supply as a year ago. Some carrots are still moving from storage, although the bulk of marketings are shipped fresh from the South and Southwest.

Oranges and grapefruit will continue to be in plentiful supply during April. Florida Valencia orange supplies are slightly larger than last year; April marks the peak of their season. California Navel oranges are approaching the close of their season with Valencia marketings expected to follow immediately. Heavy grapefruit shipments are still coming from Florida and Texas.

Butter stocks in storage (March 1) are about four times as large as a year ago and almost twice as large as the March 1 average for the 5 years, 1937-41. Milk production increases seasonally throughout April and larger supplies of butter and other dairy products are expected. Milk production this year is larger than last year's large production. Much of the increased production is going into cheese and evaporated milk. Cheese stocks as of March 1 were about 35 percent larger than last year. Military and Lend-Lease requirements are taking much of the increased production in both these items.

"BLUE STAMP FOODS"

The April Blue Stamp food list is the same as the March list. The March list is:

APPLES, ORANGES, GRAPEFRUIT, PEARS;
ALL FRESH VEGETABLES (including potatoes);
DRIED BEANS, DRIED PRUNES;
BUTTER, SHELL EGGS;
ALL WHEAT FLOUR (including enriched), ALL
SELF-RISING FLOUR (including enriched), WHOLE
WHEAT (Graham) FLOUR, CORNMEAL, HOMINY GRITS.

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VOLUME VI, NUMBER 8 APRIL 15, 1942

Pork prospects for the coming summer indicate a sharp reduction in supplies for civilian use compared with 1941 and recent earlier years. Military and Lend-Lease requirements are cutting heavily into production which is expected to be considerably larger than last year. The decrease in pork supplies available for domestic use will be offset to considerable extent by other meat supplies.

However, total supplies of meat for domestic consumption during the coming spring and summer probably will be from 5 to 10 percent less than they were in 1941, and approximately the same as they were in 1940.

Supplies of some other high protein foods such as eggs and beans look favorable. Egg production for the calendar year to date has been running about 15 percent higher than a year earlier, which is sufficient to take care of current military and Lend-Lease purchases and still leave approximately as many eggs for domestic consumption as were available a year ago. It seems probable that, unless the Government's needs increase, the spring and summer egg supply for civilian use will be as large as last year. April is a month of large egg production. Prices usually are lowest during the late spring. Prices have not declined as much as usual since last November. Government purchases have helped maintain egg prices higher than a year earlier. This has tended to encourage a continued large output of eggs on farms.

Domestic lard supplies during the next 6 months are expected to be much smaller than last year, despite record production. Lend-Lease requirements, as in the case of pork, account for this drop. Supplies of other edible fats and oils this spring and summer probably won't differ much from those a year ago. Hence, a reduced total supply of fats and oils is in prospect.

Dried beans, a good source of vegetable proteins, are in larger supply than last year, with prices of certain varieties, such as red kidneys, less than a few months ago.

Fresh vegetables are increasing as warmer weather approaches and sources of supply move northward. Larger supplies than last year are expected during the next 3 or 4 weeks in asparagus, snap beans, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, lettuce, onions, spinach and tomatoes. Smaller supplies than last year may be expected in lima beans, cucumbers, and eggplant.

Snap bean shipments were delayed by unfavorable cold, wet weather in Florida which killed much of the earlier crop. Replantings are now coming into bearing, and this acreage will constitute the main source of supply until the latter part of the month. Asparagus shipments have been increasing during the past several weeks and may be expected to continue increasing throughout April. Supplies of California fresh asparagus are dependent not only on the total crop, but also on the amount of canning. It seems probable that this year's fresh shipments may

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beans large as last year. Asparagus from Georgia and South Carolina has been retarded by cold weather but some light shipments may be expected from South Carolina by the latter part of the month. Cabbage continues to move in exceptionally heavy supplies from southern and western producing areas. Prospects are that it will continue in large supply throughout the rest of April and May. Florida celery shipments are declining from what they were a month ago but they continue to be relatively large compared with last year. Good quality lettuce is now coming from western producing areas in larger supplies than a year ago. Shipments from the South are comparatively light but may be expected to increase during the coming month. New crop onions from Texas are now moving in light supply; shipments are expected to increase seasonally throughout the rest of April and the spring. The crop is considerably larger than last year. Reports from producing areas indicate onions are growing well and relatively large supplies, barring unexpected developments, may be expected to continue throughout the spring into summer. Spinach supplies from some producing areas are increasing. The total supply is estimated as larger than last year. Recent prices have been no higher than a year ago. Carrot shipments have been heavier than a year earlier during recent weeks. They are expected to continue large during the rest of April and May, although there may be a decline from relatively large supplies of the past month. Wet cold weather in southern areas has held lima beans, cucumbers and eggplant to relatively light supplies.

The strawberry season is now under way. It is moving North with the advance of warm weather. Shipments are still moving from Florida with some movement also coming from Louisiana. Heavy shipments are expected out of Louisiana during the latter half of April. Crop is reported as good in both Louisiana and Alabama. Strawberry shipments are expected out of North Carolina by the latter part of April.

Oranges and grapefruit are still in season with heavy shipments originating in each producing area. Good quality Valencia oranges are moving out of Florida; California Valencias may be expected to begin moving in volume by the latter part of the month and will constitute most of the California supply by the middle of May. The California Navel orange season will be completed within the next several weeks. Texas is still shipping some oranges but at a declining rate. The end of this month will pretty well complete the Texas season. Grapefruit shipments continue to move in volume as large as a year ago. The peak of the season is now over but heavy shipments from Florida will continue, though at a declining rate, for a couple of months; Texas supplies will continue throughout April and most of May. The tangerine season is now over.

CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE

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VOLUME VI, NUMBER 9 MAY 1, 1942

This is the way foods are affected by the Office of Price Administration order of April 28, which placed a ceiling over prices. Foods in the first group may not be sold at more than the top price charged for each type in March. Foods in the second group are not price fixed.

THESE HAVE CEILING PRICES:	THESE DON'T HAVE CEILING PRICES:
Most processed foods, that is, foods manufactured or prepared in some way not by a farmer.	Most raw foods, that is, foods as they come from the farm.
Imported foods, like bananas, spices, sugar, coffee, tea.	
Milk and cream at retail, and ice cream at wholesale and retail.	Butter, cheese, evaporated and condensed milk.
Canned and frozen fruits and vegetables.	Fresh fruits and vegetables.
	Eggs and poultry
Beef and pork and their products.	Lamb and mutton
Canned and pickled fish.	Fresh fish and fresh seafood.
Most dried fruits.	Dried prunes.
Most dried vegetables.	Dried beans.
Peanuts.	All other nuts.
Bread, bakery products, packaged cake mixes, packaged flour mixes.	All other flours including enriched flours.

Fresh fruit and vegetable prices generally decline throughout the summer as marketings increase. Production is increasing seasonally on many vegetables, also on some fruits, such as strawberries. The producing areas from which marketings are now being made are moving northward with the advance of spring. The season has been retarded in a number of producing areas by cold, wet, unfavorable weather. However, prospects for May, in general, look favorable. Seasonal increases are expected in many items. For the next few weeks, supplies compared with a year ago are expected to be:

SLIGHTLY LARGER: lima beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, strawberries, peas
CONSIDERABLY LARGER: snap beans, eggplant, tomatoes
MUCH LARGER: lettuce, onions, spinach
SMALLER: cucumbers, peppers, early Irish potatoes
THE SAME: asparagus

Big news in vegetable supplies throughout most of May will be lettuce and spinach. Much larger crops than a year ago are expected. Agricultural Marketing Administration is conducting a campaign among consumers and distributors to help move the large lettuce supplies expected May 11-25.

(OVER)

Oranges and grapefruit are never as plentiful in summer months as in winter months. Supplies usually begin to drop off in May. This May, supplies of Valencias probably will be smaller than last May. Navel orange season is practically over, but Valencias both from Florida and California are now coming to market. Prices may be considerably above last year's. May will see the tapering off of the grapefruit season, so prices can be expected to be higher than in recent weeks.

Poultry supplies for most of the summer are expected to be larger than a year ago. Last spring marketing of broilers was at a record level. Marketings of broilers during the next month probably will be at least as large as a year ago, and for the rest of the summer they are expected to be much larger than usual.

Egg production still continues heavy and, although prices are considerably above a year ago, eggs are now in seasonally heavy supply.

Supplies of lamb during May probably will be somewhat less than a year earlier. The spring lamb crop has met with unfavorable conditions in many areas so that marketings probably will not be at as large a volume as was expected earlier in the year.

Butter stocks are much larger than a year ago. Milk production is at its peak during June. Much of the increased milk production is going into cheese and evaporated milk.

"BLUE STAMP FOODS"

The May Blue Stamp food list, the same as April's, includes:

APPLES, ORANGES, GRAPEFRUIT, PEARS:
ALL FRESH VEGETABLES (including potatoes):
DRIED BEANS, DRIED PRUNES:
BUTTER, SHELL EGGS:
ALL WHEAT FLOUR (including enriched), ALL SELF-RISING FLOUR (including enriched), WHOLE WHEAT (Graham) FLOUR, CORNMEAL, HOMINY GRITS.

CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumer's Counsel Division, Agricultural Marketing Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

VOLUME VI, NUMBER 10 MAY 15, 1942

Vegetable supplies during the next few weeks will be on the upgrade and also larger than a year ago. Increases over last year are expected in asparagus, snap beans, cabbage, onions, green peas, green peppers, and strawberries. Asparagus will be available throughout the rest of May and June from nearby North Atlantic and North Central States. Shipments of snap beans are expected to be in relatively heavy volume by the third week in May. Cabbage supplies are larger than a year ago, although they will not be as large during the next few weeks as they were a couple of months ago when exceedingly large shipments were coming from the far South. Supplies of new onions are considerably larger than last year with substantial declines from recent prices. Onion supplies are not only larger than a year ago but are somewhat above averages for recent prior years. Prospects for green peas are better than last year but still substantially below averages for recent prior years. The quantity and quality of green peas available from Virginia and North Carolina during the next few weeks will depend upon weather conditions. There is some indication that dry weather has had some adverse effects on growth. Prospective supplies of green peppers from Florida are considerably above a year ago. Relatively large shipments may be expected throughout the rest of May and June.

Marketings of new potatoes are increasing seasonally, but throughout the remainder of May they are expected to be somewhat below last year. The season for old potatoes is drawing to a close with relatively light supplies left in storage. Due to relatively light supplies of old potatoes and a new crop about the same as last year, it is probable that prices during the next several weeks will be considerably above last year. Supplies available for market throughout the Mid-West may be less than a year ago during June while supplies in the Atlantic area may be slightly above.

Lettuce has been designated a Victory Food Special by the Agricultural Marketing Administration for the period May 11-25. Marketings are expected to be particularly heavy. Iceberg variety is moving in large volume from California. The Administration is cooperating with handlers and distributors in helping to move the large crop. Distributors are urged to assist in getting these large supplies into consumption. Spinach supplies also are large with a large portion of current marketings now coming from nearby areas. Large marketings of tomatoes are expected in late May and June. A considerably larger acreage than a year ago was planted and crop conditions to date are reported as about average. Unless unfavorable weather intervenes, it is probable that there will be large supplies on the market during the next several weeks.

Supplies of dried beans continue to be large with current price trends slightly downward. During recent weeks, red kidney beans have been selling at considerably less than a year earlier. Many of the dried beans will

(OVER)

not be available in canned form due to limitations of tin supplies. This high protein food may offer a good substitute in the menu for other protein foods which have advanced in price during recent months.

Peak of strawberry marketings is expected the latter part of this month or early in June. Supplies from the North Atlantic and North Central States are expected to be considerably larger than a year ago and slightly above average. Strawberry prices usually are lowest in late May or June. Shipments may be expected to continue throughout July, but June ordinarily is the last month of substantial supplies.

Supplies of oranges and grapefruit are still moving in relatively heavy volume although they may be expected to decline somewhat throughout the rest of May and June. Florida is still shipping some Valencia oranges and will continue to do so until the middle of July. California is also shipping Valencias and will supply the market with this variety throughout the summer. Grapefruit is still moving both from Florida and California with prospects that Florida shipments will continue for several more weeks.

Supplies of spring lambs during the next several weeks are expected to be somewhat larger than a year ago. Supplies of pork available for domestic consumption will be considerably less than a year ago despite larger slaughter. Lend-lease and other military requirements are taking substantial portions of pork and lard supplies. Larger beef supplies than a year earlier will offset a large part of the decrease in pork. Poultry supplies are expected to be considerably larger throughout the remainder of the year than they were a year ago. Broilers and fryers are now coming on the market in somewhat heavier supply than last year with considerable increases expected by the latter part of June; heavy supplies are expected in July.

Egg production is considerably larger than last year although Lend-lease requirements are heavier and are taking about all of the increased production. Recent egg prices have been higher than a year ago.

Relatively high prices of dairy products have helped to maintain record milk production. Increased production has been necessary to supply larger requirements of cheese, evaporated and dry skim milk. Production of these 3 items has been much larger than a year ago with Lend-lease and military needs absorbing a big part of the increase. Storage stocks of butter are much larger than a year ago. Current butter prices have been higher than a year earlier with a slight wholesale decline in the last week but less than the usual seasonal trend. It is probable that prices of dairy products will not decline during the peak period of production in June as much as in past years. Government price supports to insure large milk production and large supplies of dairy products for war purposes will tend to arrest the seasonal trend in dairy product prices.

CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE

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VOLUME VI, NUMBER 11 June 15, 1942.

COMING VICTORY FOOD SPECIAL:

ITEM:	TOMATOES
WHEN?	JUNE 29 - JULY 4
WHERE?.	NATIONALLY

Watch for seasonal increases in supplies of these fruits; sweet and sour cherries, plums, apricots, peaches, Bartlett pears, Valencia oranges, cantaloups, and watermelons.

Compared with a year ago, supplies of these are expected to be larger: cherries (sweet and sour), plums, apricots, limes. Supplies of these are expected to be smaller than a year ago: oranges, lemons, peaches, Bartlett pears, cantaloups, watermelons,

We are edging into the peach season with prospects for a good crop, somewhat smaller than last year's but a good deal above average. The 1942 crop in Southern States is not as big as last year's but last year's crop was the biggest on record. Southern supplies are expected to be sufficiently large to bring peach prices to low seasonal levels in July and early August in many markets, although local supplies may result in seasonally low prices in some markets.

Large increases are expected in sour cherries from Northern States, particularly New York, Michigan, Washington, and Oregon.

California Valencia oranges are now moving to market in volume at prices moderately higher than a year ago. The California Valencia orange crop, which is the main source of supply from now until Florida begins shipping in the fall, is only slightly smaller than a year ago.

Lemon crop is smaller than last year; during recent years only two-thirds, approximately, of the lemon crop has been shipped to fresh market. The remainder has gone to manufactured products. The quantity of lemons which will be shipped this summer depends to a great extent upon how hot the weather is. If sufficient demand exists the supply sent to fresh market may be as large as last year.

California Bartlett pears will be available the latter part of June and will continue in the market throughout July and August, after which Washington and Oregon Bartletts will take over. The crop is slightly smaller than last year with prospects that shipments for fresh consumption may be somewhat less than a year earlier.

Vegetable supplies, particularly from local market gardens, are increasing seasonally. Expect larger crops than last year in these: snap beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, onions, Irish potatoes, tomatoes. Expect smaller than last year's crops in: lima beans, celery, cucumbers, lettuce, green peas.

(OVER)

Estimates of the tomato crop indicate much heavier shipments during the rest of the month than a year earlier. Heavier tomato shipments for this period of the season should come from Texas, Mississippi, and other Southern States during late June and early July. Local supplies, which may be a more attractive purchase for home canning, will be available later, during August and early September.

Sweet corn will increase seasonally throughout the next several weeks. No official estimates are available on how much sweet corn will be available for fresh market, but shipments to date are about as large as last year and indicators point to about the same supplies during the next few weeks as were available a year earlier.

Practically all potatoes are now coming from the new crop of 1942. Production in areas which will be shipping during the next few weeks is slightly above last year.

The prospects look favorable for a continuation of heavy supplies of new onions during the next several weeks.

Production of green peas for late June and early July harvest is somewhat below last year, although most of the decrease occurs on the Pacific Coast.

Supplies of most dairy products are running higher than a year ago. In response to wartime demands, milk production for production purposes is higher than last year, with increases shown for butter, cheese, evaporated and dry skim milk. The period of flush production has just passed its peak, but heavier production than a year ago is expected to continue. There is more cheese available for domestic consumption in the country now than a year ago. Now is the time for consumers to step up their cheese purchases.

Poultry supplies are considerably heavier than last year. Heavy marketings of broilers and fryers are expected throughout July. Egg production has passed its seasonal peak and will decline from now on until November, but production is likely to continue much larger than a year earlier. However, the supply available for domestic civilian consumption probably will be about the same as a year ago as Lend-Lease and military requirements are taking large quantities.

Supply of pork available for domestic civilian consumption is less than a year ago, although the 1942 pig crop which will come to market this fall and winter was considerably larger than a year earlier. War requirements are taking a large quantity from the available pork supplies and probably will continue to do so throughout much of the year, but supplies will be greatly increased when the period of heavy marketing starts this fall. Beef supplies are larger than last year with recent prices of better quality beef declining while some of the lower grades have advanced. Heavier marketings than a year ago are expected to continue throughout the summer.

C O N S U M E R S' M A R K E T S E R V I C E

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VOLUME VI, NUMBER 12 JULY 1, 1942

Watch for these four foods which have been earmarked as Victory Food Specials. Supplies are expected to be heavy. Compared with a year ago, they will be exceptionally large.

Victory Food Special	When	Where
Vegetables		
Beets	July 6 through July 11	East of Ohio & North of Virginia
Snap beans	July 6 through July 11	East of Ohio & North of Virginia
Fruits		
Peaches	July 16 through Aug. 5	National
Poultry		
Broilers & fryers	July 16 through July 25	National

North Atlantic States producers of beets and snap beans planted larger acreage this year. This, together with favorable weather, is resulting in abundant supplies. Marketings of these two items should reach their peak following July 4 in the areas east of Ohio and north of Virginia. Beets probably will continue in relatively large supply throughout most of the summer months. To help provide larger quantities of eggs next winter and spring farmers increased hatching of young chicks. This also brought forth larger quantities of broilers and fryers which will be a welcome addition to the supply of poultry meat, and will help to meet the greater demand for all meats. Broilers and fryers from spring hatchings are expected to come to market in seasonally large quantities the latter half of July and continue in plentiful supply throughout the summer. These spring-hatched chickens should help to make up for shorter domestic supplies of some cured meats caused by heavy shipments to military outposts and our Allies.

Largest supplies of peaches in many marketing areas will occur during late July and early August when marketings from the Southeastern area are at their peak. Southeastern States, Arkansas, and North Atlantic Coast States have a good crop; not quite as large as last year's exceptional crop, but much larger than average for recent years. Some of the North Central States were hit by late frosts and have a much smaller crop than a year ago. Buyers close to local supplies should watch for local peak movements.

Fresh California plums will be coming on the market in slightly larger quantities than a year earlier. Bartlett pears will show up on the market during early July increasing throughout the rest of the month and continuing until late fall. The Bartlett pear crop is slightly smaller than last year. Supplies on the fresh market depend to some extent upon the amount taken by Pacific Coast canners. Prospects indicate an active canning demand. Fresh supplies probably will be smaller than last year. Grapes from the West Coast are now moving to market and will increase some throughout the month; heavier shipments may be expected during late summer. The condition of the grape crop looks favorable. The California Valencia orange

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crop, which provides most of the summer orange supply, is slightly smaller than a year ago. Florida limes are in considerably heavier supply than last year. Total supplies of cantaloups during the next several weeks are expected to be somewhat below that of a year ago although East Coast areas may have slightly more than last year. Watch for peak supply periods. Watermelons will increase seasonally although the supply will be less than last year.

Seasonal increases in many vegetables may be expected throughout the next several weeks. Local market garden supplies will provide much of the seasonal increase. Larger supplies than a year ago in commercial producing areas are expected in tomatoes, snap beans, beets, cabbage, onions. Smaller supplies than a year ago are expected in lettuce, green peppers, lima beans, celery, green peas. Potato supplies during July are expected to be slightly larger than last year in the East while mid-Western production will be somewhat less. All marketings are now coming from 1942 plantings.

Continuation of heavy slaughter of beef is in prospect. Commercial cattle slaughter during the period January-April 1942 was 20 percent greater than a year earlier. Prices of lower grades have advanced in recent weeks while higher grades have declined. Heavier slaughter than a year earlier is expected to continue throughout the summer. Pork slaughter also is heavier than last year; expectations are that the 1942 slaughter will be a record. However, heavy purchases for military and Lend-Lease needs are reducing the supply for domestic civilian needs to less than a year ago. Reports on the 1942 spring pig crop promise greater increases in pork supplies for slaughter next winter and spring.

BLUE STAMP FOODS

Several changes have been made in the July Blue Stamp food list as compared with June: Dried prunes and fresh grapefruit have been removed; fresh peaches, fresh plums, fresh apples, and Irish potatoes have been added to the list.

The July list is: ORANGES, FRESH PEACHES, FRESH PLUMS, FRESH APPLES;
ALL FRESH VEGETABLES, INCLUDING IRISH AND SWEET POTATOES;
DRIED BEANS;
BUTTER, SHELL EGGS;
ALL WHEAT FLOUR INCLUDING "ENRICHED";
ALL SELF-RISING FLOUR INCLUDING "ENRICHED";
WHOLE-WHEAT (GRAHAM) FLOUR, CORNMEAL, HOMINY GRITS.

CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE

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VOLUME VI, NUMBER 13 JULY 15, 1942

REMEMBER VICTORY FOOD SPECIALS	When	Where
Peaches	July 16 through Aug. 5	National
Broilers & Fryers	July 16 through July 25	National

Seasonal increases in supplies of fresh fruit during the second half of July may be expected in peaches, Bartlett pears, plums, early apples, grapes. Large shipments of California Valencia oranges and lemons are expected to continue, although they may be somewhat less than a year ago. Elberta peaches are now moving from Southeastern States and will continue to come to market as the season moves northward. This variety, which is excellent for both eating fresh and canning, is in large supply in Southeastern States, North Atlantic States, and some of the Western Mountain areas. The supply is considerably less than a year ago in the Northern Mississippi and Ohio Valleys. The amount of Bartlett pears which will come to fresh market probably will be much the same as last year which was somewhat less than in recent previous years.

Fresh vegetable supplies will also increase seasonally and probably will be larger during the remainder of the month than during the first part and larger generally than a year ago. Much of the current supply will be available from local market gardens on which there are no official estimates, but climate and weather have been favorable generally except in some parts of the Mid-West which have suffered from too much rain. Larger supplies than a year ago are expected in snap beans, cauliflower, onions, green peppers, and spinach; smaller than a year ago: lima beans, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, watermelons, cantaloups.

Supplies of snap beans are expected to be much larger than last year. Green peas, although slightly less than a year ago for the States shipping during the next few weeks, will be slightly larger for areas served by Eastern production, but considerably smaller for markets usually dependent upon Pacific Northwest supply. Supplies in some of the North Atlantic Coast areas probably will be about the same as a year ago while supplies in the Mid-West will be slightly less than last year. Supplies of sweet corn in North Atlantic States will be somewhat less than last year. Supplies throughout the Mid-West, where they can be diverted from canning to fresh shipments, may be about the same as a year ago. Onion supplies for the next several weeks will be larger than last year in practically all areas except those which are dependent upon Iowa for their supplies. Beets continue to be in heavy supply in prac-

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tically all areas with indications that they will continue so throughout the remainder of the month. Marketings of tomatoes are expected to increase seasonally as local supplies become available; prices may be expected to decline seasonally although they may not be quite as low as a year ago.

Broilers and fryers should be coming on the market in heavier supply the latter half of this month. Large increases, compared with a year ago, are likely due to the much larger hatch of young chickens this past spring. Reports indicate that farmers may be feeding young chickens to slightly heavier weights than last year. However, an increase over a year ago in the number marketed in July is very likely and, perhaps, at slightly heavier weights; a larger supply of heavier weight chickens may be expected later in the summer.

Egg production has passed its seasonal peak but continues to be much heavier than a year ago, practically all the increase being taken for conversion into dried eggs for Lend-Lease and military purposes. There will be about as many eggs available for domestic civilian use as there were a year ago but at higher prices.

Milk production continues to be larger than last year's previous record production. The production of dairy products -- evaporated milk, dry skim milk, and cheese -- also continues at record levels. Stocks of evaporated milk are high, but relatively larger quantities of milk have been diverted during the past couple of months to butter and dry skim milk. Butter production has been slightly less than a year earlier, and stocks of creamery butter on July 1 were slightly smaller than last year's unusually large stocks. Cheese production is considerably larger than a year ago and stocks of cheese also are larger than last year. Supplies made available for military and Lend-Lease purposes have been larger, but commercial stocks for domestic civilian use are considerably larger than a year earlier.

Meat supplies during the remainder of 1942 are expected to be less than a year earlier. Supplies of pork, despite a record spring pig crop, will be less than a year ago due to heavy purchase of pork and lard for military and Lend-Lease. Larger slaughter supplies of beef than a year ago will help to make up for some of the reduction in pork supplies for civilian use. Supplies of lamb are expected to be about the same as a year ago. Beef, lamb, and pork are selling at prices well above a year ago; price ceilings have been applied to beef and pork. Increases in marketings of poultry will help to make up for some of the shipments on pork.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Discontinued
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Because of the need to save on materials and labor, it has become necessary for us to discontinue the publication of "Consumer Notes" and "Consumers' Market Service." We greatly appreciate the attention and interest you have shown and regret that it is no longer possible to continue this service.

If we find it possible to resume publication at some future time, we shall be glad to notify you.

Very truly yours,

Mary Taylor

Mary Taylor, Assistant Director
Consumers' Counsel Division

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